

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thankfully our visitors have begun to steadily return to Locust Grove this past year. We have been delighted to see people connect in fellowship with new and longtime friends in this place. The opening of the new pavilion has allowed us a beautiful space to provide in-person programs and events that have been met with great enthusiasm and success.

As we look forward to 2023, I am excited by a renewed focus on the gardens, meadows, and woods with an eye toward careful planning, maintenance, conservation, and interpretation of the natural space. I am hopeful about new ways to see Locust Grove through print, digital, and live in-person experiences. We will continue to create programs for wider audience engagement both locally and beyond.

I am also excited about the initiation of the second phase of our Capital Campaign which will allow Locust Grove to modernize our visitor center lobby and gift shop areas, expand pathways to historic buildings, renovate the auditorium, improve the office space for our wonderful and deserving staff, and other improvements to make Locust Grove a more memorable and inviting community space. Keep an eye out for more information and a generous heart if you are able to give your support.

I offer a heartfelt "Thank You" to all who have helped us to interpret the story and place of Historic Locust Grove this year. Volunteers, staff, board members, donors, and visitors all play a vital role in making Locust Grove successful. No matter your contribution, great or small, time or money, know that we could not do it without you. Please continue your generosity in the coming year as we kick off the annual appeal and stay connected as we bring you more ways to participate in the future and connect to the past.

Sincerely,

Chris Chappell Board President Historic Locust Grove, Inc.



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

From the summer of 2021 through the summer of 2022 the big story at Locust Grove has been **construction**. The groundbreaking for the new event pavilion took place in February of 2021, and proceeded, with great disruption but high hopes, through the year to the opening party in April of 2022. The results are magnificent — light and airy, solid and grounded, attuned to the surroundings, and with fine acoustics for the many events and performances to come.

It was also a year of uncertainty and experimentation during which the Board and staff continued to invest in the future of Locust Grove through thoughtful planning, hiring and training new staff, taking a deep dive into historical research, and initiating and testing new ideas.

We believe that it will all pay off in a vibrant and more relevant experience for all who come to the site, whether simply to enjoy the beauty of the grounds, to attend a festival event or a private celebration, or to take part in an experiential tour, see a performance by our cast of actors, or take a class on an aspect of American history.

The chance to step back from routine and take a new look has been invaluable. Many initiatives are just being introduced this year, and more will roll out in the future as we continue to develop new spaces in our grounds and buildings (Phase II of our Master Plan and Capital Campaign is coming up!) and audiences are returning, day by day and week by week.

Locust Grove's success through this *interesting* year is due to our loyal and our new supporters — we're excited to see what we can do together in the coming year!

Carol Ely, Ph.D.

Executive Director,
Historic Locust Grove, Inc.



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Carol Ely, Executive Director
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Kate Widdowson, Development and Membership Coordinator
Heather Hiner, Assistant Program Coordinator
Noah Hiner, Program Assistant & Media Coordinator
Brandi Threatt, Museum Theatre Director

Weekend Managers Harlan Dawkins Alba Jennings David Rothermel

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DONOR NOTES

This past year, we received some wonderful notes alongside your thoughtful donations, and wanted to share a few that inspired us as we work to preserve and share Locust Grove with you!

"Thank you for being there, Locust Grove, to see History be told interestingly and correctly" September 2021

"Thank you so much for all you do for Locust Grove and for all that Locust Grove does for Louisville." January 2022

"I'm giving to Historic Locust Grove because of its work on telling the story of those enslaved on the site." September 2021 "Locust Grove is working hard to refine and better articulate the full story of Louisville and Kentucky in 1792, and Carol and her team do great work, thank you." September 2021

"The work you are doing at Locust Grove is creative and important. Keep it up!" May 2022



MAJOR PROGRAMS 2021 - 2022

Free Independence Day/Summer on the Farm

Guests gathered in the shade of the grove of trees near the main house as a reading of the Declaration of Independence was read by First-Person Interpreter Brandon Vigliarolo and "What to the Slave is the 4th of July?" was read by actor Brandi Threatt portraying Frederick Douglass. Two showings of the new *Unfolding the Story* tour were offered, as well as self-guided tours of the main house. This event was offered with free admission thanks to the sponsorship of Independence Bank.

Jane Austen Festival

The 13th annual Jane Austen Festival was a hybrid event, due to the pandemic. There were both in-person and virtual components to this year's festival, which included online lectures from featured speakers and both virtual and in-person workshops. The Jane Austen Festival was presented by Locust Grove with support from the Jane Austen Society of Greater Louisville. This year's theme was *Race, Power, and the Arts in Jane Austen's World*, and took an in-depth look at the world around Jane Austen between the years 1800-1817—what influenced her, things she would have witnessed, and the powers at play globally.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: On the Farm Programs at Locust Grove

Locust Grove has recently welcomed a new series of programming into the fold of our annual events. The "On The Farm" Series includes four events each year, some may seem familiar to many of our longstanding members and volunteers:

- Gardeners' Fair: Spring on the Farm [occurs the Saturday of the Gardeners' Fair]
- Independence Day: Summer on the Farm [occurs the same day as our 4th of July Celebration]
- Fall on the Farm: A Saturday in late September/ early October
- Christmas on the Farm: The second Saturday of each December





The *On the Farm* Series includes four dedicated days of programming that include performances by the First Person Interpreter corps portraying the Croghan and Clark family, scripted performances by the Museum Theater Program, hearth cooking demonstrations, workshops for both children and adults, and period games and activities.





MAJOR PROGRAMS 2021 - 2022

Looking for Lilith Summer Camp

This one-week camp was held at Locust Grove in partnership with the Looking for Lilith Theatre Company for students ages 9-12, and explored the ways in which Locust Grove as a historic site could inspire a theatrical production, based on the stories of those who lived and worked here, and utilizing the beautiful backdrop of our historic house, grounds, gardens, and outbuildings. Campers spent the week participating in activities such as hearth cooking and dairy demonstrations, a period etiquette workshop, journal making, and of course, devising their own production with the theatre educators, culminating with a powerful youth-led performance for parents and family on the last day of camp.

Antiques Markets

In September 2021, the Antiques Market returned after a short pandemic break, and continued with much success for the Summer Antiques Market in June 2022. The weather was fair for both event days, and the nearly 2,000 guests were delighted by the variety of new treasures to peruse from regional and local vendors. Many thanks to our sponsors, Antiques at Distillery Commons, Signature Art N Antiques, and Collecting Kentucky, as well as organizer Rod Lich.







This series of events is slated to grow in our coming years as we build relationships with period demonstrators and artisans and hold more workshops and experiences on the grounds and in the outbuildings at Locust Grove. We plan to show the daily life of all of those that lived and worked at Locust Grove: the skills they acquired, the handicrafts they created, the games they enjoyed, the food they grew, and the music they listened to.



MAJOR PROGRAMS 2021 - 2022

Cultural Pass

Every Tuesday during the summer, we welcomed school-age children and their families to explore Locust Grove as part of Cultural Pass, presented by Fund for the Arts, Louisville Free Public Library, and Metro Louisville, and made possible by our donors and sponsors. Featured activities included the tour of the historic house, a "touch table" of artifacts that have significance to the history of the enslaved community at Locust Grove, an activity for tracing the original map of Mammoth Cave, a period letter writing and mail activity, and short vignettes in the wash house and Louisa's House by our Museum Theater Actors. Our heartfelt thanks to staff and talented volunteers for helping us share our history with new and returning young visitors.

Used Book Sales

Donations continued to come in this year at a steady pace, allowing us to hold three book sales throughout the year. The December Book Sale overlapped with the Christmas on the Farm event, so event guests had the opportunity to enjoy some holiday book shopping as well. The Spring Book Sale was held in March. Overall, we sold more than 50,000 books and raised \$53,000. Thank you to our many sponsors and the hard work of our volunteers who make this event a success year after year.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: Building for the Next Century at Locust Grove

It was a long road to the finished event Pavilion at Locust Grove — and we're so glad to celebrate now that it's here! The 4,000-square foot structure is perfectly integrated into the landscape, tucked away from view of the historic buildings — it's both part of the classical geometry of William Croghan's gardens at Locust Grove, and a modern window on the natural rolling fields and valleys of the site.

The Pavilion is only part of the transformation of the site. The Visitor Center was expanded to include a new catering kitchen, pantry, and storage area that was greatly needed to house all of our program activities. New walkways and landscaping tie the elements together, from the south side of the Pavilion all the way up the new brick walkway to the door of the historic house.

At the other end of the Visitor Center building, the old cabin now houses a new research library; the outbuildings have new interpretive signs; and other markers on the grounds orient visitors to the history and people of the site. Systems have been upgraded, and smaller improvements are found throughout the buildings and grounds.

The work we originally outlined in our Master Plan for the site was not completed in this phase. We have plans for upgrades to the auditorium, more pathways on the grounds, improved parking, and, especially, renovating the main lobby to include a glass-enclosed store and a space for temporary exhibits. Realizing these plans requires another round of fundraising, quietly beginning now and accelerating in 2023 (get in touch if you are interested!)









MAJOR PROGRAMS 2021 - 2022

Fall Encampment - A Simple Revolutionary Weekend

With construction still underway, we were not able to accommodate all activities associated with the usual 18th Century Market Fair, so this year we presented a smaller version of this event. For the weekend, both British and Continental soldiers descended upon the grounds of Locust Grove, alongside tradespeople, performers, and food vendors, transporting the site to the year 1778. There were drills and parades, musical performances and farm demonstrations, army surgeon demonstrations and mash-making in the distillery. Thank you to the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the General Society of Colonial Wars for sponsoring this event.

Christmas on the Farm

We ushered in the winter season by honoring seasonal traditions and demonstrating winter farm activities. With construction in the final stages, we once more planned a smaller event this year. Demonstrations immersed guests in the year 1816 as the house was prepared for a holiday party and farm activities prepare for the winter months ahead. The hearth kitchen was warm and full of demonstrations of period cooking, all while experiencing a performance by our Museum Theater Actors portraying the enslaved hearth cook Nan, as well as Criss, Louisa,



Many people made these improvements possible. The vision came from the Master Planning process led by Kate Boyer nearly a decade ago, and she continued to advance the projects through her work as Chair of the Campaign Committee, joined by Gwynne and Grover Potts as Honorary (and very active!) Campaign Chairs. A generous gift from longtime supporter and leader, the late Preston Thomas, made it possible to dream big.

Buildings Committee Chair Hunter Louis insisted always on the highest standards of design and construction, and guided the process that led to the choice of DeLeon Primmer Architecture Workshop to design the new structure. Their outstanding site-sensitive design was realized by Woodbine Construction in wood, steel, cement, and stone (inspired by the limestone in the historic structures here). Landscape design — in a project that was all about fitting into the landscape — was provided by Environs, Inc. Metro Parks provided guidance and oversight for the entire project.

The many unexpected circumstances and unforeseen obstacles along the way (unknown buried electrical lines, no legal easement to connect the plumbing lines, severe erosion under the existing auditorium that required emergency reinforcement... oh, and a pandemic) were handled with imagination and grace by all the participants.

In all, getting to this point took eleven years, four board presidents, a fundraising effort that brought gifts from more than 200 individuals, foundations, corporations, and associations totaling nearly \$3 million, a construction period of 14 months, sustained and heroic work by the staff, a great deal of sweat, some blood, and a few tears — we made it! We literally MADE the vision come true.

All of us, all of you.

We couldn't be more proud.







MAJOR PROGRAMS 2021 - 2022

and Rose. The First Person Interpreter Corps presented performances in which they portrayed the Croghan and Clark family members decorating the historic house with period-appropriate decorations, hands-on activities such as decorating pomanders, and lovely performances based on the power of charity in the year 1816.

Gardeners' Fair/ Spring on the Farm

After a two-year break due to the pandemic, we enjoyed the return of Gardeners' Fair with more than 1,800 guests visiting us over the weekend. Vendors returned with a beautiful array of plants and gardening goods for sale, 502 Hemp demonstrated the use of hemp products, and Gelato Gilberto was on hand to serve up cold treats. Event-goers also had a chance to learn about what "Spring on the Farm" meant in the early 1800s, with hearth kitchen demonstrations, and Ballyhoo Fiber Emporium was here with goat milking and sheep shearing demonstrations. Thank you to St. Matthews Feed & Seed, and the many sponsors and volunteers who made this large event possible.

ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTIONS: Exciting Research Leads for 2023

In June when Director of Interpretation Kaitlyn Tisdale was in Washington D.C. for the Ethical Interpretation Workshop with the National Museum of African American History and Culture, she was able to make a quick stop at one important location: the Library of Congress.

While there, with readers card in hand, she was able to request access to several boxes that are a part of the *Thomas Sidney Jesup Papers* collection. This collection contains over 6,000 items in 25 different containers, and many of them include letters, account

books, and small journals that contain references to the Croghan family.

Thomas Sidney Jesup was an army officer and Quartermaster General, but perhaps more importantly to Locust Grove, he was the husband of William and Lucy Croghan's elder daughter Ann. Perhaps unknowingly to Thomas Jesup at the time was how integral he would soon become as a member of the Croghan family.

In the few short hours Kaitlyn could spare to do her research prior to the beginning of her fellowship she was able to find several letters that had never been seen by researchers from Locust Grove. Many of them were undated, and therefore hard



Snapshots of letters at the Library of Congress

to originally place in the family timeline, or some just hard to make much sense of. Yet now, decades after the first researchers began uncovering Locust Grove stories, we can better understand the names of the individuals being mentioned and the contents of these letters and ledgers.

In glancing through the account books, we also believe that the information that could potentially be found in Thomas Jesup's account books could also be invaluable in understanding his place in the family — by the early 1830s Jesup is firmly situated as "family patriarch", even over Dr. John Croghan.

Kaitlyn Tisdale and Program Coordinator Heather Hiner will be visiting Washington D.C. in February of 2023 to revisit the Library of Congress to view this collection in its entirety, as well as some collections held in the National Archives. This is an effort to get a more thorough look at Jesup and his importance, as well as to review some of the records detailing the military service, and later pension files, of some of the men enslaved at Locust Grove that later served in the Civil War.

We look forward to shedding new light on our stories at Locust Grove and hope you will join us in the coming year as we begin to share them.



MAJOR PROGRAMS 2021 - 2022

Afternoon Lecture Series

The last virtual lecture was in February, and April 2022 saw the return of in-person lectures, with construction in the Audubon Room complete, and the pandemic receding, it was wonderful to welcome back our lecture attendees.

February 2022 – Carin Bloom: "In Close Proximity": Urban Enslavement in the Early Republic

April 2022 – Carol Ely: "Beyond Midnight": Paul Revere's Ride and the Revolution in Boston

May 2022 — Kaitlyn Tisdale: "Through Her Eyes": The Lives and Legacies of the Women of Locust Grove

June 2022 – Heather Hiner: "The Most Troublesome Property a Man Can Have": Slavery at Locust Grove

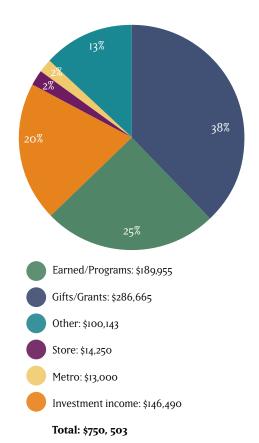
Special Juneteenth Lecture – Heather Hiner: "The Winding Road to Freedom": Emancipation at Locust Grove

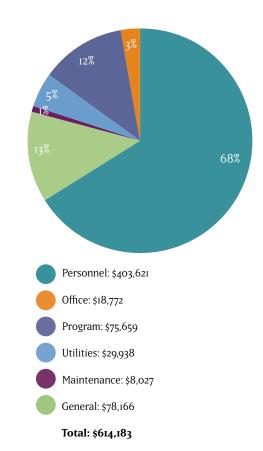
INCOME

This was an unusual year in Locust Grove's finances. Program income was down from usual levels because, although we were gradually returning to a full calendar of events, there were few school tours or group tours and fewer tourist visits. However, successful fundraising, a strong endowment, and pandemic relief funds combined to produce a surplus, which will be applied to needed programs and new initiatives on the site in the coming year.

EXPENSE

As always, personnel costs formed a large percentage of the budget, as the staff of veterans and new hires continued to produce high-quality programs, maintain and enhance the physical site, and research and develop new aspects of our programs and exhibits.





Attendance: 10,281

Cultural Pass Attendees: 612

Events and Programs: 10

Lectures: 5

Group Tours and Field Trips: 17

Volunteer Hours: 6,311

Presentations/Conferences: 3

New Library Space: 1

Months of Construction: 7

Days without water or electricity on site: only 3!!

DONORS TO THE CAMPAIGN FOR LOCUST GROVE

to December 2022

As we marvel at what has been accomplished in the past few years to improve this site for the Louisville community, opening up new and expanding possibilities, and sustaining our capabilities for years to come, we wish to extend a special thank you to those who have supported our Capital Campaign to make this vision come to life. Listed here are all campaign donors, and early

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